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PATENT  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 040894-5731

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Hiroshi SAITO )

Application No.: 09/973,774 )

Filed: October 11, 2001 )

For: **SPEECH RECOGNITION METHOD AND  
APPARATUS** )

Group Art Unit: 2641

Examiner: Unassigned

**RECEIVED**

MAR 24 2003

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449 forms. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Accordingly, Applicant does not believe that a fee is due for filing this paper.

Each of the listed documents were cited in a Search Report dated December 30, 2002, in a counterpart European patent application. A copy of the Search Report is attached. A copy of each listed document is attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner initial and return the Form PTO 1449, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each of all of the listed documents are material or constitute "Prior Art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not

constitute "Prior Art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

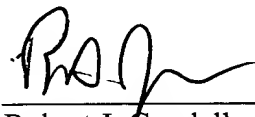
Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

**EXCEPT** for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

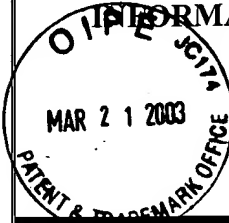
Respectfully submitted,

**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**

Dated: March 21, 2003

By:   
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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: left;">  <p><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b></p> <p><b>PTO FORM 1449</b></p> <p>(Use several sheets if necessary)</p> <p><b>PAGE 1 of 1</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>Attorney Docket No.: 040894-5731    Application No.: 09/973,774</p> <p>Applicant: Hiroshi SAITO</p> <p>Filing Date: October 11, 2001    Group Art Unit: 2641</p> </div> </div>				Attorney Docket No.: 040894-5731		Application No.: 09/973,774	
				Applicant: Hiroshi SAITO			
				Filing Date: October 11, 2001		Group Art Unit: 2641	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date	
	6,112,174	Aug. 29, 2000	Wakisaka, <i>et al.</i>	704	257	Nov. 13, 1997	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation	
		EP 0 935 123	Aug. 11, 1999	Europe			YES	NO
		EP 0 903 728	Mar. 24, 1999	Europe				
		JP 2000-089782	Mar. 31, 2000	Japan				X
		JP 2000-137729	May 16, 2000	Japan				X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

Examiner	Date Considered
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Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.